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TWELVE PAGES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 1899.

THE PLATFORM OF DEMOCRACY AND THE PEOPLE.

The Democratic platform of 1896
should be strewn broadcast over the
whole country, so that every man, wo-
man and youth may have it, read it and
cherish it as the revived Magna Char-
ta of popular right, power and free
self-government. "Who would be free,
themselves must strike the blow," and
so that all may know how and what to
strike in November, 1900, it is necessary
that everyone should be informed
thoroughly of what the Democracy pro-
claims in what is known as "The Chi-
cago Platform of 1896—the National
Bill of Rights."

Of course, it is enough for a certain
class of political dudes and social pa-
triot to hear that anything relates to
charters and bills of rights, or to any-
thing truly Democratic and popular, for
them to scorn it, as beneath their con-
sideration, vulgar and childish; but the
people hear the truth gladly, and they
have only to be instructed to act well
and wisely. Therefore they should
learn their platform by heart; and all
of us need to refresh our knowledge of
it, as shield, buckler and sword, in the
fight already begun.

The great declaration opens with a
re-affirmation of allegiance to the es-
sential principles of justice and liberty
upon which our institutions stand;
freedom of speech, press and con-
science; the preservation of personal
rights, the equality of all citizens before
the law and the faithful observance of
constitutional limitations.

The party record of resistance to cen-
tralization and of maintenance of home,
self-government is necessary to the just
loyalty to the constitution which creat-
ed the Union. Devotion to political and
religious liberty is pledged. But the
money-question is paramount, and, as
the constitution establishes gold and
silver as our money-metals, and as our
laws, first regulating coinage, made the
silver dollar the unit of value and ad-
mitted gold to free and unlimited coin-
age with silver, neither should be dis-
carded; using both, our former unexam-
pled prosperity endorsed that use; but
the demonetization of silver had caused
a contraction of currency, increased the
value of money by depreciation of all
other values, bringing hard times upon
all except a few whom the scarcity of
money enriches at the expenses of the
many. The restoration of the former
mint law of silver to equal privileges
with gold, at the rate of 16 to 1 is de-
manded. The right of option of pay-
ment in silver or gold of all Federal ob-
ligations payable in coin, should be re-
tained by government for its own bene-
fit and protection, as intended and mu-
tually understood when the obligations
were made. Opposition to issuing in-
terest-bearing bonds in time of peace,
and making traffic of these to banking
syndicates for gold to sustain gold mon-
ometallism. Congress alone has power
to coin and issue money, and this power
cannot be transferred or delegated to
persons outside of the government. The
issue of notes by the Treasury as money
for national banks is condemned,
and it is demanded that all paper
made legal-tender, or receivable for
taxes, should be issued by government,
redeemable in coin. Equal tariff laws
for all sections and commodities, united
to the economical expenditures for gov-
ernment. Yet opposition to tariff agita-
tion is expressed, until the money ques-
tion is settled. Favors an income-tax,
as held constitutional by our judiciary
for nearly a century. To protect our

own labor by excluding foreign con-
tract-labor.

Opposition to trusts and for laws to
protect the people from the robbery and
oppression of great consolidations of
capital. Denounces the profligate and
wasteful expenditures now in full car-
eer, and urges a return to Democratic
simplicity and economy—thus lessening
the burdens of labor and produc-
tion. No unconstitutional and arbitrary
interference by Federal power in local
or State affairs, and especially objects
to government by injunction as a NEW
AND HIGHLY DANGEROUS FORM
OF OPPRESSION, by which Federal
judges, in contempt of the laws of the
States and the rights of citizens, BE-
COME AT ONCE LEGISLATORS,
JUDGES AND EXECUTIONERS.

Recognizes the just claim of Union
and other deserving soldiers for pen-
sions. Favors the admission to State-
hood of all Territories having the neces-
sary population and resources, and
that all officials of the local govern-
ment of any Territory, including Alaska
and the District of Columbia, shall be
bona fide residents thereof. The
Monroe doctrine is recognized as a par-
amount part of our foreign policy. Sym-
pathy is extended to Cuba in her heroic
struggle for liberty and independence.
Opposed to life-tenure in public office;
and in favor of equal opportunities in
the civil service to all citizens com-
petent, honest and faithful to the con-
stitution. Against a third term for
President. Federal aid for the improve-
ment of the Mississippi river and other
great waterways of transportation for
internal commerce, whenever needed.

The platform concludes thus:
"Confiding in the justice of our cause
and the necessity of its success at the
polls, we submit the foregoing decla-
ration of principles and purposes to the
considerate judgment of the American
people. We invite the support of all
citizens who approve them and who de-
sire to have them made effective
through legislation for the relief of the
people and the restoration of the coun-
try's prosperity."

To this will doubtless be added next
year: "Opposition to Territorial Ex-
pansion in distant waters, where we in-
cur the dangers of entangling alliances
and of embroilment in European quar-
rels; opposition to forcible annexation,
criminal aggression, colonial imperialism,
a standing army in time of peace,
to supplant the constitutional militia
of the States; and just denunciation of the
miserable and disgraceful misrule of
Hannanism."

IDIOMS ARE GRACES.

The Richmond Dispatch has long held
worthily the undisputed position of
Professor of Good English to the press
of Virginia, if not of a wider territory;
but as it has never assumed the tone
of a stern master, so none of the Vir-
ginia newspapers has servilely followed
its rulings, while all are more or less
indebted to it for information and sug-
gestion that have served them well in
the use—the proper use—of language,
which enters so largely into journalis-
tic labor and production. In the con-
tinuous use of words and the demand
for them the press has a practice which
does not make perfect; but which, on
the contrary, by its urgency and haste,
tends to error and imperfection; and
hence the necessity for a critic, moni-
tor, censor and corrector so vigilant
and capable as the Dispatch, whose
William F. Drinkard, as a learned doc-
tor of the laws of language, had few
equals in this State as long as he lived,
but who seems to have dropped his
philological mantle upon the shoulders
of a worthy successor.

There is only one point of any mo-
ment on which our Richmond contem-
porary seems to err in its rulings and
in insisting upon too strongly; and that
is that, in using the infinitive mood of
any verb, "to," (the sign of the infinitive)
must not be separated from the
verb. This is not based on common
usage, nor on the authority or example
of our great writers of any age; and
even the Dispatch will furnish occa-
sional examples in its editorial depart-
ment that "natural" expression, as
contrasted with a "stilted" style, often
rhythm, and metre, in poetry, too, find
rhythm, and metre, in poetry, too, find
this separation sometimes convenient,
if not inevitable; and we really see no
grave objection to the practice where it
does not obscure the sense. Our lan-
guage has too many stiff joints in it,
and the tendency of purists to increase
these and destroy our old idiomatic
forms by a despotic grammarism is by
no means to be commended. We vote
rather for free speech, than to have our
tongue gagged and our hand manacled
by iron formulas.

Another fad of the Dispatch is to
abolish "you had better do so and so,"
&c., and say "you would better do so
and so." &c. It is agreed that our con-
temporary has the strict grammatical
argument with it in this case, as it has,
also, in its rule as to the use of the
infinitive; but we love the old liberty
of speech and its idioms, so we love
free speech and its precedents, muni-
cements and guarantees; and "you would
better do" this or that, compared with
"you'd better," or "you had better do"
this or that, seems to us a barbarism
rather than an improvement. Slavery is
detestable; but idioms are graces to be
cherished.

STYLE IN WRITING.

Brevity is still the soul of wit, and
that form is best which clearly ex-
presses the most in the fewest words.
But to reach this perfection in brevity
takes a prodigious deal of time, as
everyone who tries to do it, well
knows. One must first write out his

thoughts in the words in which he first
conceives, or run the risk of losing it,
especially in its best points. Then this
original draft has to be gone over care-
fully to eliminate every paragraph
which wanders from "the pending ques-
tion," or is unnecessary to perspicuity,
or force, or fullness. That of itself, is a
tedious process, and requires very care-
ful judgment and an experience in
averaging the perception and intelli-
gence of the mixed multitude for whom
he writes. The soul of wit must have
some body, or else the majority of read-
ers, not having spiritual discernment,
will entirely fail to discover it. In this
first general revision, too, there may be
necessary expressions added, as well as
contraction made, and every glaring
impropriety of matter or speech must be
elided mercilessly.

All that, however, takes much more
time and labor than the writing of the
article in its first form did.

The general revision accomplished,
then comes the more tedious examina-
tion of words, phrases and sentences.
Every redundant word must be elided;
for, in fact, every such word is as much
an error as an unnecessary letter in the
orthography of a word. Every super-
fluous sentence, too, must be sacrificed.
But here, one soon discovers, lies his
greatest danger; for he is familiar with
his subject, while it may be compara-
tively new to his readers, or some of
them. He has thought it out, and writ-
ten it out; his business now is to con-
vey his understanding of the matter to
the understanding of others, and he is
apt to think that what is so intelligible
to him, must be equally intelligible to
others. That is a great mistake: like
constructing a bridge not wide enough
for the stream, or making a ladder too
short to reach the height desired. It is
labor and material thrown away; and
one soon understands that it is far
better to err in saying too much than
in saying too little; as in the case of
a bridge or ladder,—if one be too wide
and the other too long, they at least ac-
complish the purpose of each, as neither
would do if too narrow or too short, re-
spectively.

After this second revision, comes the
final one, in which, in whole and de-
tails, the article must be subjected to
the closest scrutiny and receive its final
polish: no typographical or grammatical
error must escape; every omission
must be supplied; the logical connec-
tion of all the parts must be perfected;
even the rhythm (as necessary to good
prose as to poetry), though varied,
must be adjusted to a certain har-
mony; and the "points" made in state-
ment or argument must be sharpened,
and the whole adjusted to a general
balance and proportion that will make
it most effective.—But what writer for
a daily paper has time for all this?

Mr. Charles D. Denit, one of the
editors and proprietors of that really
first-class weekly newspaper, the Salem
Times-Register, has been nominated by
the Democrats of Roanoke county for
the position of Clerk of the County and
Circuit Courts. He is an all-round
newspaper man, having worked his way
from the humble position of "devil" to
that of joint owner and editor and a
fair share of this world's goods. He
is a Democrat all the way up, all the
way down, "all the way through, and all
the way round. The Virginian-Pilot
hopes the people of his county will
have the good sense and patriotism to
elect him by a big majority.

Colonel Creecy, editor of the Eliza-
beth City Economist, and the Nestor of
the North Carolina press, is receiving
the congratulations of his brethren on
the twenty-eighth anniversary of the
birth of his paper. Colonel Creecy and
his excellent publication do not age.
They are both bright, reliable, up-to-
date, and an honor to their city and
State. The Virginian-Pilot's best wishes
for a century of life and prosperity.

When the Norfolk companies come
home they will find that previous wel-
comes given to other home comers have
not diminished the supply.

A GOOD NEWSPAPER.
The Methodist (Danville).
The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot gives
more news from the Methodist churches
of the State than any daily paper we
know of. This is one of the very best
papers in the South, and richly deserves
the large patronage it enjoys.

A GOOD COMBINE.
Friday, March 31st, was the first an-
niversary of the issuance of New Daily
Pilot and the Norfolk Virginian as the
Virginian-Pilot, and it is with pride, as
well as gratitude to the people whose
patronage made the results attained
possible, that we announce that the
consolidation has been a gratifying
success.—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.
This is interesting. Before the date
mentioned by our contemporary there
were three morning papers in Norfolk,
and competition was so sharp that
neither the Virginian nor the Pilot
found business profitable. It was the
most natural thing in the world, there-
fore, for the president of the Virginian
Company and the president of the Pilot
Company to consolidate their newspa-
pers under one management. And this
was done in spite of the fact that the
Pilot was violently opposed in its edi-
torial conduct to trusts and combines.

At the time that this combination was
effected we prophesied that it would be
to the benefit of all in interest. We
prophesied that the people of Norfolk
would get in the Virginian-Pilot a bet-
ter newspaper for one price than either
the Virginian or the Pilot was before
the consolidation took place. We pro-
phesied also that the merchants of
Norfolk would get for one price advan-
ced results better than they had re-
ceived by paying two prices to the Vir-
ginian and Pilot under separate man-
agement. We prophesied in the third
place that the two papers conducted
under one management would thereby
convert losses into profits, and that the
venture would be successful. Accord-
ing to the statement above from the
Virginian-Pilot all these predictions
have been fulfilled and our contem-
porary has demonstrated the fact that
in some cases, at least, combines are al-
together desirable.—Richmond Times.

VIRGINIAN-PILOT'S HOME STUDY CIRCLE

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DIRECTED BY PROF. SEYMOUR EATON.

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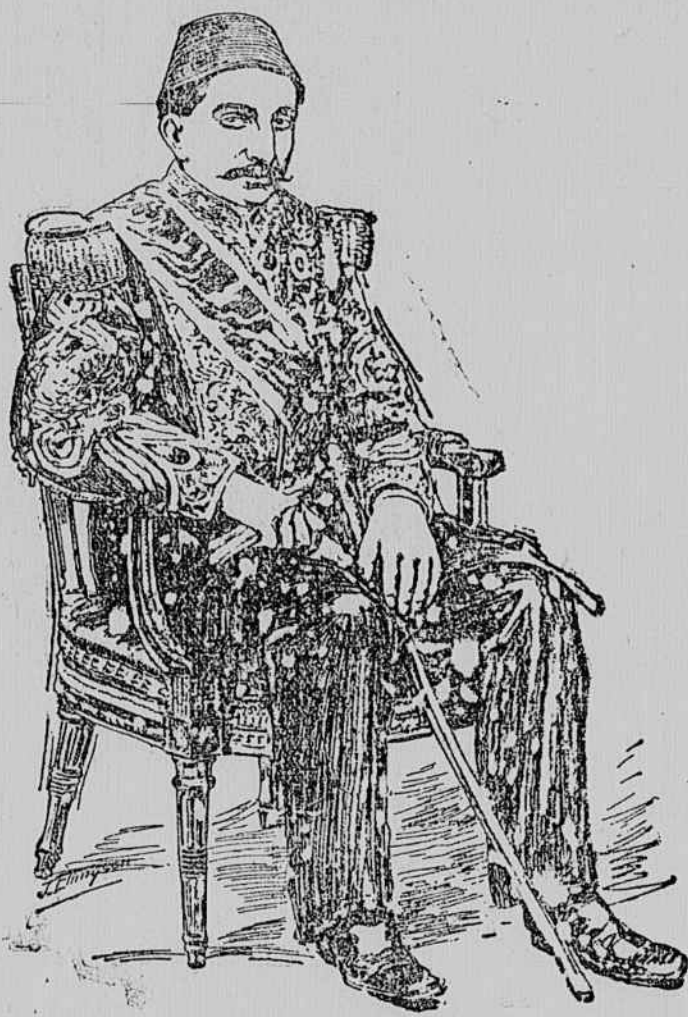
GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORLD OF TO-DAY.

IV.—TURKEY.
BY JAMES ALBERT WOODBURN,
PH. D.
(Professor of Political Science, Univer-
sity of Indiana.)

Introduction: Historical and Political.

With the fall of Constantinople in 1453
before the conquering Turk the eastern
empire of Rome came to an end—an
event with which many writers date
the beginning of modern history. How
to get the Turk out of Europe has been
a problem ever since. To the European
body politic Turkish rule is an alien

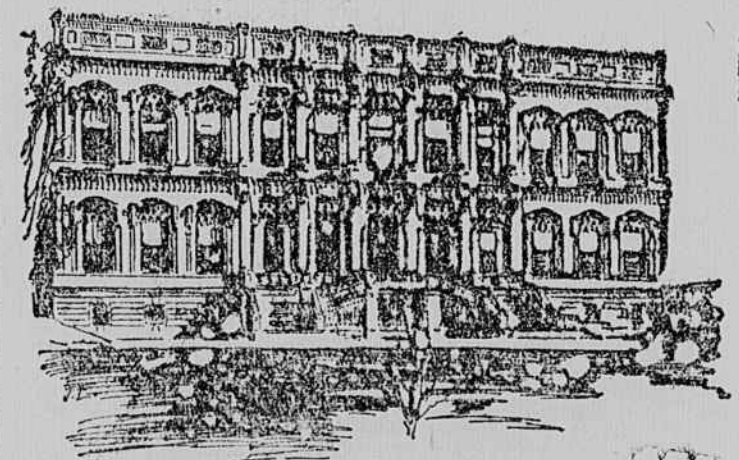
meaning of the statement that Turkey
is alien to Europe. The government of
Turkey is European only in a geographi-
cal sense. In civil and political ideas,
in race and religion, in its governmen-
tal organization, Turkey is Asiatic, not
European. The legislation of the Otto-
mans was founded originally upon the
customs which prevailed upon the
steppes and plateaus of Asia. The
Turks were modified in their religion
and their national life by their con-
version to Islamism, but in their prin-
ciples of government they are essen-
tially what they were upon the Asiatic
steppes. The difference between the
government of Turkey and that of any
free state of western Europe is so fun-



THE SULTAN OF TURKEY

substance, like the proverbial thorn in
the flesh. In 1553, 400 years after the
fall of Constantinople, the prophecy
went forth that Turkish rule in Eu-
rope having filled out its allotted 400
years, should now come to an end. It
was then that Nicholas, czar of Rus-
sia, in conversation with the English
ambassador at St. Petersburg, called
Turkey the "sick man." No doctor, it
was thought, could restore the patient
to health, and the matter of immediate
concern was to agree about the dying
man's inheritance. According to Nicho-
las' plan the European provinces of
Turkey—Serbia, Bulgaria and Bosnia—
were to be made independent states

damental, so wide and deep and far-
reaching, that they are to be contrasted
rather than compared. It is the con-
trast between barbarism and civiliza-
tion. "Turkish rulers," says Mr. Free-
man, "have nothing to do with Euro-
pean beyond the fact that they live and
bear rule within her borders. It is hard
to describe the actual state of things
except by the use of words which be-
long to another state of things, and
which when applied to the state of
things which exist in southeastern Eu-
rope have no meaning. If we use such
words as nation, people, government,
law, sovereignty, subject, we must give
them all special and new definitions.
Southeastern Europe contains nothing



THE SULTAN'S PALACE AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

and, with Moldavia and Wallachia,
were to be placed under a Russian pro-
tectorate, while England was to ap-
propriate Egypt and Candia. However,
in spite of this and many similar schemes
for the dismemberment of European
Turkey, the Turkish power in Europe
still abides, and it becomes necessary in
a series of lessons on the European
governments of to-day to bring Turkey
into consideration.
It is important to notice first the

which corresponds to the meaning of
these terms in western Europe."
Mr. Freeman reminds us that, while
the Turk came into Europe as a con-
quering race, there has been between
conquerors and conquered no coalescing
no assimilation, no co-operation. The
Franks conquered Gaul and were soon
assimilated in the general mass of the
people. So with the Lombards in Italy
and the Saxons in England. But the
Turks are as alien in Europe now, just

as distinct from the mass of the people
whose land they entered and over whom
they bear rule, as they were 500 years
ago. "They have not adopted the lan-
guage and manners of the people of the
land, nor have the people of the land
adopted their language and man-
ners. They have never become the
countrymen of the people of the land;
they still remain foreigners and oppres-
sors. The so-called government is in no
sense the head of the people of the
land, but is simply the head of the con-
quering strangers. Turkey in Europe
is merely "an army of occupation."

This state of things indicates the
great distinction, politically, between
Turkey and western Europe. It is a
distinction to be accounted for by fun-
damental differences in race, language
and religion. Above all, it is the Turk-
ish religion which prevented the assim-
ilation of that race into the political
and governmental life of Europe. It
is this which has prevented the dis-
tinction between the conquered and
conqueror from being overcome. As
Mr. Freeman points out, to the Engli-
shman or American, "subject" and "cit-
izen" alike mean a man who is a mem-
ber of a political community, and who
has or may have a share in the choice
of those who make and administer the
laws. The sovereign Victoria is mere-
ly the head of the national body of
which the citizen subjects are controll-
ing members. But the Christian sub-
jects of the sultan are merely members
of a body, or race, which is held in sub-
jection by a body, or race, of which the
sultan is the head. Thus, the govern-
ment of non-Turkish subjects is clearly
a government of military force. The
non-Muslims are not and probably
never can be members of the Turk-
ish political community.

POLITICAL ORGANIZATION OF TURKEY.

However, this Turkish political com-
munity, or nationality, is organized and
governed on principles utterly foreign
to the political thought of the Ameri-
can.

Turkey is an unlimited, absolute mon-
archy. It is impossible to study the
government of Turkey as we would that
of any government of western Europe,
because of the fact that Turkey has no
constitutional organization. It is the
most emphatic sense an absolute mon-
archy. How its provinces are governed
to-day or how they will be governed
next week or next year depends upon
the caprice and will of a single man.
Turkey's government is pre-eminently a
government of men, of ruling function-
aries; it is not a government of laws.
Of these ruling functionaries we no-
tice the following:

1. The Sultan. The sultan is the con-
stitution and the government. His will
is law. He appoints and displaces as he
pleases, and in the most willful man-
ner. Without any known reason he may
banish a minister to a distant part of
his empire. He is now even more au-
sultant than in former years; for the
present sultan, Abd-ul-Hamid II., a
man of able parts, has drawn to him-
self much of the power formerly exer-
cised by the sublime porte, or the cabi-
net.

As the sultan's power is irresponsi-
ble, so his person is inviolable. He is
the sacred, anointed ruler in direct de-
scendant from the house of Osman, the
founder of the Ottoman empire. The
present sultan is the thirty-fourth in
descent from Osman, the twenty-
eighth since the fall of Constantinople.
By the law of succession the sultan's
crown is inherited according to seniority
by the male descendants of Osman. All
children born in the harem, which is
considered a state institution, are
legitimate, whether born of slave wo-
men or of free. The sultan is succeed-
ed by his eldest son only in case there
are no uncles or cousins of greater age.

2. The Grand Vizier. Under the su-
preme direction of the sultan the legi-
slative and executive authority of the
state is exercised by the high dignity
known as the grand vizier. He is the
under-head of the temporal government
and may be known as the prime min-
ister.

3. The Shiek ul-Islam. Correspond-
ing to the grand vizier in affairs of
state is the shiek ul-Islam, or the "imam"
for the affairs of the church. This
official is the highest Ottoman ecclesi-
astical functionary, and, as has been
indicated, represents the sultan in re-
ligious affairs as the grand vizier does
in temporal affairs. These two high
dignitaries are appointed by the sultan
and may be removed by him. The
Shiek ul-Islam is appointed with the
nominal concurrence of the "ulema,"
a body comprising the clergy and the
chief functionaries of the law, over
which the shiek ul-Islam presides,
though he himself does not exercise
priestly functions. The ulema com-
prises all the great judges, theologians,
jurists, the great teachers of literature
and of science who may be summoned
by the shiek ul-Islam. As head of the
church the shiek ul-Islam has peculiar
power and influence while in office. No
Ottoman sultan was ever deposed until
the mufti had issued a fetva (offi-
cial opinion) against him; such a fetva
once issued it would be very difficult,
if not impossible, for the sovereign to
retain his place.

4. The Sublime Porte. The grand vizier
as head of the government and repre-
sentative of the sovereign is assisted
by a privy council, which corresponds
to what may be called a cabinet. This
consists of the following officials, who
are subject to the will of the sultan,
over their respective departments:
1, the grand vizier, the head of the cabi-
net; 2, the shiek ul-Islam; 3, minister
of the interior; 4, minister of war; 5,
minister of worship; 6, minister of pub-
lic instruction; 7, minister of public
works; 8, minister of finance; 9, minis-
ter of marine; 10, minister of the civil
list. All these ministers are subject to
the absolute power of the sultan, and
together they constitute the sublime
porte.

The Sultan is bound by the Koran. Is
this personal absolutism unmodified?
Are there no laws by which the sultan
is bound? The fundamental laws of the
empire are based upon the precepts of
the Koran, and the absolute will of the
sultan is restrained only by the pro-
vision that he shall not contravene the
sacred texts of the Mohammedan
religion as laid down in the sacred
books of the prophet. Next to the Ko-
ran the laws of the "Mulleka," a code
formed of the supposed sayings and
opinions of Mohammed and the senten-
ces and decisions of his immediate suc-
cessors, are binding upon the sover-
eign as well as upon his subjects. The
code of laws of Solymen the Magnifi-
cent is also held in general obedience,
though only as an emanation of human
authority.

DIVISIONS OF THE EMPIRE.

The whole empire is divided into
thirty-one governments or provinces
(vilayets), and these are subdivided in-
to districts, subdistricts and commu-
nities. Over each vilayet is a vali, or
governor-general, who is assisted by a
provincial council. The subdivisions of
the empire are subjected to inferior au-
thorities under the superintendence of
the governor-general. Appointment to
the lower divisions of the empire, and
the province may be made directly by
the sultan, as is sometimes done for
political reasons.

(Continued on Fifth Page.)